

Application Serial No. 10/044,487 - Filed January 11, 2002

REMARKS

Applicant submits the present amendment to replace the previously submitted non-compliant amendment. Claims 1-31 were pending. Claims 2, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15, and 28 have been cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 6, 12, 16-19, and 29 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 6-12, 16-27, and 29-31 remain pending.

Applicant has provided a new Title as requested by the examiner.

In the present Office Action, claims 15-16 and 28-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include all the features of prior claim 15, including those of all intervening claims. Similarly, claim 19 has been amended to include all the features of prior claim 28. Accordingly, each of independent claims 1 and 19 are in condition for allowance. In addition, as all pending dependent claims include at least the features of claim 1 or 19, all pending dependent claims are likewise in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance. Should the examiner believe any issues remain which would prevent the present application from being allowed, the below signed representative requests a telephone call at (512) 853-8866 in order to facilitate a speedy resolution.

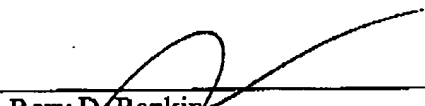
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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time are necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-37601/RDR.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 4, 2005